
Appendix 3

Program Evaluation

Title 38, §527, and 38 CFR §1.15 require VA to evaluate its programs to ensure that they are effective and efficient and are meeting the needs of veterans and their families. The Office of Policy and Planning, a staff office not responsible for program administration, is assigned the responsibility for organizing and implementing the Department's program evaluation efforts in concert with its responsibilities to implement key elements of GPRA. The results of program evaluations have been used to support the development of Objective 2.2 of this plan. Subsequent evaluations will be used to review and, as appropriate, modify program outcomes, performance measures, and performance targets.

Evaluations assess:

- The extent to which program outcome goals are met and the extent to which performance affects outcomes;
- The interrelationships between VA programs and other Federal programs to determine how well these programs complement one another;
- The needs and requirements of veterans and their dependents in the future to ensure that the nature and scope of future benefits and services are aligned with the changing needs and expectations; and
- The adequacy of outcome measures in determining the extent to which the programs are achieving intended purposes and outcomes.

Evaluations have been completed for the following areas:

- The Montgomery GI Bill for active duty personnel and veterans;
- The Montgomery GI Bill for selected reserves; and
- Survivors' and Dependents' education.

Evaluations are currently in progress under contract in the following areas:

- Survivors Benefits (Dependency Indemnity Compensation, Servicemen Group Life Insurance, Veterans Group Life Insurance, Service Disabled Veteran Insurance, and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance); and
- Cardiac Care.

Planning for evaluations has been initiated on the following programs:

- Prosthetics and Sensory Aids; and
- Nonservice-connected Pension and Parent's Dependency Indemnity Compensation (both needs-based programs).

Table C presents the current schedule for evaluation that will take place from FY 2001 to FY 2006.

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Table C presents the current schedule for evaluations that will take place from FY 2001 to FY 2006.

Table C

**Program Evaluation Schedule
Estimated Start Dates
FY 2001 – 2006**

2001¹	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Blind Rehabilitation	Disability Compensation	Environmental Health (<i>Gulf War, Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation</i>)	Homeless	Medical Education	Mental Health (<i>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</i>)
Spinal Cord Injury	Extended Care (<i>Nursing homes & Geriatrics</i>)	Vocational Rehabilitation	Emergency Preparedness	Severely Disabled (<i>Seriously Mentally Ill, Traumatic Brain Injury</i>)	Cardiac Care
Burial Benefits & Services		Mental Health (<i>Readjustment Counseling</i>)	Medical Research	Mental Health (<i>Substance Abuse</i>)	Survivors Benefits (<i>DIC, SGLI, VGLI, SDVI, VMLI</i>)
Pension & Parents DIC			Loan Guaranty	Education Program	
Prosthetics & Sensory Aids					

¹ Implementation of all five program evaluations in FY 2001 is contingent upon supplemental funding from the Administrations.